

SENATOR NEWELL: I just want him to listen. I don't really want him to talk on my time. You know I think Senator DeCamp truly enjoys pitting the Legislature Republican against Democrat and then calling us to rise above partisanship when he has a bill up himself and I have always enjoyed that technique and that style and that tactic, if you will, because it has really served John well over the years. The issue here is not whether the Democrats or the Republicans are going to make state employees happy or mad or whatever the case may be. The real question is, is the State Legislature recognizing that in fact we drew the bill last time probably a little too harshly when we included operations? It is my belief that maybe the Governor might have been a little more kindly if we had put it in percentage inclinations to where you didn't have to go all the way down. But the real issue is not what the Governor is going to do. I don't doubt for a moment that he will probably do as Johnnie predicted and that is veto this also. He has made some assumptions. If you agree with his assumptions and you want to hold the tax rates where they are at, then you ought to vote against this proposal. If on the other hand that you disagree with the assumptions, as Senator Warner obviously does, and/or, and/or you are willing to raise the tax rates, then you can vote to try to provide state employees with a salary increase. I want to argue that I have a motion up there to try to bring LB 17 back to put \$7 credit in there because I think that is the responsible thing to do but I do not urge people to do as Senator Warner had urged and that is that they should vote against LB 17, kill LB 17, or inference to that, I don't know that he spelled out the proposal, and, therefore, the money would be there. The real issue here is whether or not we, as a Legislature, feels this is a priority and I do and I think others do also. The question is should 2½% salary increase go by itself over to the Governor's Office. We all know very well that if it goes there and the Governor vetoes it, and I don't doubt that he will but I don't know that he will, then in fact we can't override. But it really should have been drawn in this way in the first place because I think you would have found it a lot easier to override 2½% than you are 2½% plus operations. I don't see this as a partisan issue. I see it as an issue of whether or not you feel that we should afford, whether it creates an increase or not, state employees salaries. That is the issue before us, not the question of which party is doing what to who.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Wiitala, followed by Senator Beutler. Senator Wiitala waives. Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler has called the question. All those in favor, since I see five